

Application No.: 10/506,827
Amendment Dated: March 24, 2006

Page 2 of 13

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 100. (canceled)

101. (currently amended) A sampling device for collecting a component from an animal or animal tissue, said sampling device comprising:

at least one fibre having a coated end which is at least partially coated with an extraction phase for extracting said component; and

a positioning device for guiding said coated end into position within the animal or animal tissue, said positioning device comprising:

a catheter for placement within an animal or animal tissue, (a) a casing through which said fibre extends, said catheter casing having an open end for positioning within said animal or animal tissue (b) an attachment region disposed on said casing, and permanently attachable to said animal or animal tissue during sampling, for immobilizing the casing and said catheter being immobilized during sampling with respect to the animal or animal tissue; and, and (c)

a fibre fiber holding region attached to said fibre, said fibre fiber holding region being movable with respect to the catheter casing, to move said coated end of the fibre fiber into or out of the animal or animal tissue.

102. (previously presented) The sampling device of claim 101, wherein said fibre is at least partially coated with a biocompatible protection layer.

103. (previously presented) The sampling device of claim 102, wherein said biocompatible protection layer comprises polypyrrole or derivatised cellulose and said extraction phase comprises either (a) a polymeric composition selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted poly (dimethylsiloxane), polyacrylate, poly (ethylene glycol), carbon, poly(divinylbenzene) and polypyrrole or (b) a bioaffinity agent on the surface of the extraction phase, said bioaffinity agent being selected from the group consisting of a selective cavity, a molecular recognition moiety, a molecularly imprinted polymer and an immobilized antibody.

Application No.: 10/506,827
Amendment Dated: March 24, 2006

Page 3 of 13

104. (previously presented) The sampling device of claim 101, wherein said extraction phase is a matrix for a MALDI-TOFMS analysis.

105. (previously presented) The sampling device of claim 101, wherein said extraction phase contains a calibrant.

106. (previously presented) The sampling device of claim 101, wherein said extraction phase contains a fluorescent label or an enzyme.

107. (previously presented) The sampling device of claim 101, further comprising an openable housing for said fibre.

108. (canceled)

109. (previously presented) The sampling device of claim 101, comprising a plurality of said fibres capable of being simultaneously positioned in separate locations in said animal or animal tissue.

110. - 117. (canceled)

118. (currently amended) The sampling device of claim 101, additionally comprising a needle in which said fibre is housed, said needle being insertable into said catheter casing.

119. (new) The sampling device of claim 101, comprising a plurality of said fibres for positioning at the same location in said animal or animal tissue.